

NEA-Mr. Atherton  
THE ROYAL PALACE

AMMAN - JORDAN

25 August, 1975  
Jordan

DOS REVIEWED 27-Dec-2010: NO OBJECTION TO DECLASSIFICATION

The Honourable,  
Congresswoman Helen S. Meyner,  
The Capitol,  
Washington, D.C.,  
U. S. A.

Please allow me to express to you my profound gratitude for your support regarding the question of the sale of Advanced Hawk missiles to Jordan. I am confident that your position is in the interest of the United States and its friends and allies, and is in keeping with the tradition of true friendship which has existed between our two countries and peoples for over two decades.

Please find enclosed for your information a copy of the letter I sent to your colleagues regarding this question.

With my repeated thanks and sincere personal best wishes.

REFER TO DOS

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**I write to you in your capacity as a representative of the great American people. In all of my years at the helm of Jordan I have been a long time believer in the fundamental principles and ideals which your forefathers adopted to create the greatest and strongest nation of all times. As true friends of America, my country and my people were, for two decades, the only supporters the United States had in the Arab World. We have always been openly proud of our friendship and voiced it with courage. We felt that we shared with you the belief in the basic right of peoples to freedom, Justice, dignity and a better life.**

**My country has continuously adopted a moderate non-aggressive policy which we hope we will be enabled to continue to pursue. We have contributed greatly to maintaining stability and moderation in our area, and served the cause of peace in the Middle East in every possible way. We depended on your friendship and support in our various endeavours to prevent the polarization of the Middle East conflict between the super-powers. We cooperated very closely with your government, at considerable cost to my country and its people, in our common search for a just and lasting peace in the Middle East.**

**Yet now, my country, its government, people and armed forces, find ourselves on the horns of a dilemma. Can we preserve the friendship which existed between the United States and ourselves and which we cherished so much, or are we going to be left with no other alternative than to seek another course ?**

**What brought matters to this sad cross-road is the opposition in some Congressional quarters, which we sincerely believe to be unwarranted, to the sale of fourteen batteries of Advanced Hawk missiles to Jordan. I hope you will bear with me as we review some of the facts.**

- 2 -

Jordan is the only state in the area without an air-defence system of any kind. The fourteen Hawk batteries are the minimum requirement for our legitimate self-defence, as was established by the American Military Delegations which visited Jordan for the purpose of studying our air - defence requirements. The system we agreed with your government on is a very modest one compared to what our neighbours have, and, we feel, will in no way affect the balance of power in the Middle East, which is overwhelmingly in Israel's favour. The Hawks will be used to defend the area of our capital and a few of our major fixed installations.

We in Jordan have always looked to the United States for military equipment, and relied on you as our friends who generously helped us whenever possible, and within the limits of our ability, to purchase arms for our legitimate self-defence. We have had to be strong to survive, since weakness invites aggression. We do feel threatened, and the record of Israel's expansion since its creation in 1948 justifies those fears.

Perhaps not everyone knows that our capital city of Amman is within range of the American built Israeli heavy artillery, and that all our vital points are at the mercy of American built Israeli aircraft, which are free to violate, as they continuously do, our air-space as they please.

This situation, and the recent opposition by some congressional quarters to the sale of the Hawks to Jordan has distressed, dismayed and worried me to the point that I felt it necessary to write to you and infringe on your valuable time.

The matter is in your hands now. If your decision to provide Jordan with the urgently needed fourteen batteries of Advanced Hawk missiles is a positive one, then no one will be more pleased or satisfied than I, your old and traditional friend.

But if your decision is a negative one, I regret to inform you that I would have no other choice but to seek the best comparable system, which is available only in the Soviet Union. It would be a tragic decision on your part if you chose to push your friend and ally to adopt such a course - one which I am duty - bound to follow with the greatest of sorrow. As a friend, allow me to say that such a development will not only affect your interests in the Middle East, but will also incur irreparable damage to the United States credibility and reliability, not only in the Arab World, but perhaps throughout the world. It would indeed be tragic to have anything occur which would cast doubt upon your role as a peace-maker in the area.

- 3 -

Finally, it is common knowledge that the United States has granted Israel billions of dollars worth of arms over the years, especially since the 1973 war, and is now about to consider an additional Israeli request for more billions of your tax payers money. We understand this is to be spent on some of the most sophisticated and offensive weapons in the U. S. Arsenal, such as the F. 15 Eagle class of aircraft, and the Lance ground to ground missile. As a result the United States might well be accused of adopting a policy of double-standards, and not the even-handed constructive policy which is needed if you are to play an effective role in establishing peace in the Middle East.

Please forgive my candor, but I write as a true friend who is doing his utmost to preserve our traditional ties and close association.

I hope you will kindly accept my warm regards and personal best wishes.